

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1030

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 11994

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: IN, PFOR, UN

SUBJ: PROPOSED DALAI LAMA VISIT

1. PHILIP HENLEY OF THE TIBETAN STUDIES SOCIETY IN NEW YORK PHONED AN EMBOFF EARLY SEPTEMBER 5 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF DALAI LAMA VISITING THE US IN LATE OCTOBER TO ATTEND A RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE. EMBOFF REQUESTED HE CALL JAMES NACH, NEA/INS TO PURSUE HIS INQUIRY.

2. DURING CONVERSATION HENLEY SAID TEMPLE OF RELIGIONS, WHICH HE CLAIMS ORGANIZES INTER-RELIGIOUS CONFERENCES PERIODICALLY IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD, WILL HOLD ITS 1975 CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK. THE UN HAS SET ASIDE AN AFTERNOON IN THE UNGA SCHEDULE TO ALLOW THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE TO SPEAK. HENLEY SAID THE UN HAS ASKED THAT THE DALAI LAMA NOT ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY. REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS RELIGIONS - CATHOLICISM, HINDUISM, JUDAISM - WILL ATTEND. THE DALAI LAMA WILL REPRESENT BUDDHISM. CHINA HAS REFUSED PERMISSION FOR A CONFUCIAN HOLOR TO ATTEND.

3. HENLEY STATED FURTHER THAT HIS ORGANIZATION AND OTHER FRIENDS OF TIBET ARE LOBBYING THROUGH CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS TO ENCOURAGE THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO GRANT A VISA TO THE DALAI LAMA. SENATOR WEICKER HAS OR IS GOING TO SEND A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY RECOMMENDING THE VISIT. HE CLAIMED THAT PROFESSOR JEFFREY HOPKINS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA HAD ARRANGED FOR A VISA LAST YEAR, BUT THE PERMISSION WAS

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SUBSEQUENTLY WITHDRAWN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

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